Railway singalling system

*30. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the existing railway signalling system is ineffective for smooth running of trains during the dense foggy days;

(b) if so, whether any critical review of the existing signalling system has been made for installation of a system by which trains can be operated in foggy weather when visibility is poor; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The existing signalling system has severe limitations during foggy weather. However, instructions exist for train passing staff for steps to be taken during foggy weather to warn the driver about approach of a signal. Installation of modem signalling system is under consideration, for safer and speedier movement of trains under all conditions including foggy weather.

(c) A pilot project of a Radio-based Automatic Warning System (European Train Control System - ETCS) is proposed on Mathura-Palwal section of Central Railway. Depending on its success, induction of the system would be considered on Indian Railways subject to availability of funds. This system can take care of adverse visibility condition amongst other features.

Environmental hazards of industrialisation in Talcher-Angul Region

*31. SHRI MAN MOHAN SAMAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that environmental hazards in the Talcher-Angul region of Orissa are a serious cause of concern;

(b) whether Government have studied the impact of industrialization on environment in that region;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and